

Applicant Name Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Project Name Bald Butte Mine and Millsite Reclamation

Project Abstract

The Bald Butte Millsite and Devon/Sterling and Albion mines project is located approximately 17 miles northwest of Helena, near the headwaters area of Dog Creek. The headwaters of the basin are located on the west side of the Continental Divide, southwest of the historic mining community of Marysville. The project encompasses the western portion of the Marysville Mining District and includes the Bald Butte Millsite tailings and waste rock areas, and the Devon/Sterling and Albion mines waste rock area. The Bald Butte Millsite tailings and waste rock are currently ranked No. 11 on the DEQ Mine Waste Cleanup Bureau (MWCB) Priority Sites List. The Devon/Sterling and Albion mines are not ranked on this list.

The Bald Butte Millsite and the Devon/Sterling and Albion mines are located approximately 3.8 and 3.0 air miles, respectively, southwest of the town of Marysville in Lewis and Clark County, within the E ½ of Section 9, NW ¼ of Section 10, E ½ of Section 16, and NE ¼ of Section 21, Township 11 North and Range 6 West, Montana Principal Meridian. The sites are located within the Dog Creek drainage, a tributary of the Little Blackfoot River. There are several possible access routes to the site. The most accessible route is to proceed west on Highway 12 from Helena over MacDonald Pass. Near the bottom of MacDonald Pass, turn right on Dog Creek Road, which becomes Forest Road 1855, and follow it for approximately 12.8 to 13.5 miles respectively to the millsite and mines.

The MWCB would conduct mine reclamation; mine waste would be consolidated into a single mine waste repository with an impermeable bottom liner and a cap placed over the repository area, thereby eliminating receptor contact with the contaminated mine wastes. After reclamation activities are complete, the site will be revegetated with native plant species. Project construction is estimated to take 90 days.